



Atty. Dkt. No. 053466-0321

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kaoru KATOH et al.
Title: CARBON MICROROD AND
METHOD OF PRODUCING THE
SAME
Appl. No.: 10/058,301
Filing Date: 01/30/2002
Examiner: Abraham Bahta
Art Unit: 1775

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is in response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed February 11, 2003.

The Examiner has required restriction between Claims 1 - 4 (Group I), drawn to a carbon microrod ("article"), and Claims 5 and 6 (Group II), drawn to a method for producing a carbon microrod ("method"). The Examiner required restriction on the basis that the article as claimed could be made by a materially different process than that set forth in Claims 5 and 6.

The alleged alternate process includes: (a) extruding an organic material of crystalline carbon fiber and an organic binder into a thin rod form; (b) carbonizing the rod by calcining to produce a carbon thin rod; (c) soaking the resulting thin rod as an anode in an electrolyte solution, and (d) electrochemically oxidizing the tip portion of the thin rod.

In response, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1 - 4, for substantive examination.

Applicants now respectfully request an early and favorable action on the merits. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 10, 2003

By Michael D. Kammer
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